

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Czechoslovakia	REPORT	
SUBJECT	44th Artillery Regiment in Holesov	DATE DISTR.	29 July 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Name, address, and cover number:

a. Name: 44th Artillery Regiment.

b. Address: Garrison Administration 90/... (followed by a different letter for each sub-unit) Holesov. E.g. the address of 1st battery, IIInd battalion: Garrison administration 90/0, Holesov.

c. Cover number: 4288. In June 1953, this number was abolished in military books and substituted by the full name: 44th Artillery Regiment.

2. Subordination:

a. Divisional HQ Brno

b. IVth Army Corps (according to hearsay).

3. Organization:

a. HQ and staff: CO, Deputy CO, officer in charge of NCOs school, HQ troop commander, Soviet adviser.

b. HQ battery: drivers, clerks, radio operators, signal corps personnel, craftsmen, cooks, etc., numbering about 120 men.

c. Battalions I and II: CO, deputy CO, battery commanders; each battalion has three batteries.

d. Batteries: CO, deputy CO, political officer, gun position officer, his assistant, signal corps personnel, computers, scouts, gun crews (8 to 10 men per gun).

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated By "X"; Field Distribution By "#".)

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- e. Range-estimating battery: consists of 60 men.¹
- f. NCOs' school: the course lasts 10½ months; strength: 98 men.
- 4. Equipment:²
 - a. Guns: 1st battalion: 10 guns, 152 mm,³ German make; length of barrel 3.5 m; detachable carriage and two-wheel prime mover; solid steel wheels.
IIInd battalion: 11 guns, 105 mm, German make.
 - b. Small arms: German rifles, submachine guns of Czechoslovak make, 9 mm.
 - c. Motor transport: 8 half-tracks, German make, KMN 11 (KRAUS)
 - 6 Tatra 111 10-ton trucks
 - 7 Tatra 128 trucks
 - 22 Praga RN trucks
 - 14 Jawa motorcycles
 - 1 Skoda-Tudor car
 - 1 Tatra 57 car
 - 1 Horch car

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- a. firing at invisible targets 14 km distant;
- b. firing at invisible targets 7 km distant;
- c. firing at invisible targets 2 km distant.

Between the fire problems there were tactical exercises. Soldiers were billeted in tents, officers in villages. The result of the firing was rather good. The ammunition was of German origin. On September 8, 1953 the regiment began to move back to Holesov.

7. Political education and morale of the men:

- a. There were two hours of political education twice a week. The first two hours were lectures by political officers, the other two hours were for study and discussion. Soldiers were taught biographies of Stalin and Gottwald, mechanization of the USSR, and industrialization of Soviet agriculture. Lecturers did not seem to be interested in the lecturing themselves. There was no political education during the stay in the LVT.
- b. Morale was poor. Enlisted men were familiar with their NCOs and often went out drinking with them. Leave passes were issued only as a reward. Late passes were signed by battery COs who were very tolerant.

8. Rocket-launching battalion:⁵

This battalion was not subordinated to the 44th Artillery Regiment. The commanding officer of the battalion was Major NOVAK (fnu)

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The battalion had three batteries.

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Armament consisted of eight multiple rocket launchers of Czechoslovak make fitted on Studebaker trucks. The launchers had 35 launching rails. The rails were in five rows, seven to a row. The length of the rails was 1.5 m and the approximate diameter 11 cm. Firing was electrically controlled. The battalion numbered about 600 men and officers and had its own administration and NCOs' school. It shared barracks with the 44th Arty Regt.

Comment:

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The following comments were made by analysts connected with the Czech refugee channel:

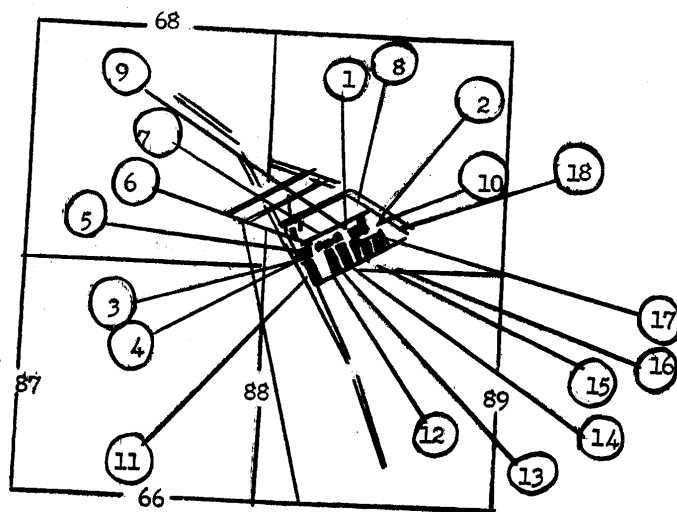
1. Artillery range-estimating batteries in peace time are usually not attached to army units, but are grouped in battalions which are trained independently and are assigned to heavy artillery brigades only temporarily during final exercises.
2. The indicated calibers of artillery arms suggest that is is an artillery unit which is directly subordinated to the District command East (HQ in Trencin). This would mean that the Artillery Brigade 6 (HQ in Olomouc) was abolished; in other words that the district artillery has been reorganized.
3. A howitzer, caliber 152 mm, as indicated by Informant is not German but Russian make. German howitzers used at district batteries were 150 mm.
4. In the event that artillery batteries were organized in regiments, current numbering would be observed, as follows:
 - I. battalion: batteries 1, 2 and 3
 - II. battalion: batteries 4, 5 and 6 - not as indicated here by Informant.
5. The rocket launching battalions are becoming organic parts of rifle divisions. Other sources previously reported that Studebaker trucks are being used as mounts for Czechoslovak manufactured rocket launchers. The battalion strength of 600 men seems to be overrated by Informant.

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Legend to the map:

1. wall
2. wire fence
3. main entrance
4. connecting asphalt road
5. regimental HQ
6. dispensary
7. POL store, stables
8. pig-sty
9. POL pump
10. gun garages
11. billets
12. courtyard
13. billets
14. car garages
15. ordnance workshop
16. storehouse
17. gun and car garages
18. training ground

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